United Nations A/AC.259/L.7

General Assembly

Distr.: Limited
5 April 2006

Original: English

United Nations Open-ended Informal Consultative Process on Oceans and the Law of the Sea
Seventh meeting
12-16 June 2006

Format and annotated provisional agenda

1. Pursuant to General Assembly resolution 54/33 of 24 November 1999, the two co-chairpersons appointed by the President of the General Assembly shall elaborate, in consultation with delegations, a format for the discussions at the United Nations Open-ended Informal Consultative Process on Oceans and the Law of the Sea (the Consultative Process) that best facilitates its work, in accordance with the rules of procedure and practices of the General Assembly. It is recalled that the General Assembly, in resolution 57/141 of 12 December 2002, extended the Consultative Process for an initial period of three years and, in its resolution 60/30 of 29 November 2005, decided to extend it for a further three-year period.

2. On the basis of consultations with delegations and of an informal preparatory meeting held at United Nations Headquarters on 16 March 2006, the Co-Chairpersons, Lorraine Ridgeway (Canada) and Cristián Maquieira (Chile), developed a format for the discussions at the seventh meeting of the Consultative Process (see annex I) and are proposing a provisional agenda for the meeting (see annex II).

3. The areas of concentration for the discussion panel on the topic "Ecosystem approaches and oceans" are presented in annex III and are intended to identify important issues that the discussion panel may wish to consider, in particular by reference to the annual report of the Secretary-General on oceans and the law of the sea (A/61/63).

4. The meeting is invited to consider and adopt the provisional agenda.

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Annex I

Format for the seventh meeting of the United Nations Open-ended Informal Consultative Process on Oceans and the Law of the Sea

Methods of work

1. Pursuant to General Assembly resolution 54/33, the seventh meeting of the United Nations Open-ended Informal Consultative Process on Oceans and the Law of the Sea will work through plenary sessions and a discussion panel.

2. The plenary sessions will be open to participation by all those listed in paragraph 3 (a) of resolution 54/33. The discussion panel will also be open to participation by representatives of major groups, as identified in section III of Agenda 21 of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development.[a]

3. Within the constraints of the available accommodation, such representatives of major groups and other observers will be free to attend the plenary sessions in accordance with established practice.

Agenda

4. The two co-chairpersons will propose to the seventh meeting a draft agenda setting out a proposed programme of work for the meeting and a timetable for the plenary sessions and the discussion panel. The seventh meeting will consider such proposals and adopt its agenda and timetable accordingly.

Discussion panels

5. The Assembly, in its resolution 60/30 of 29 November 2005, recommended that the seventh meeting focus its discussions on the topic "Ecosystem approaches and oceans". On the basis of consultations with delegations, the two co-chairpersons will propose an outline for the topic to be discussed by the panel at the seventh meeting. The co-chairpersons will invite a limited number of persons entitled to participate in the panel to launch the discussions by making short presentations on relevant questions.

Report of the seventh meeting

6. The report of the seventh meeting will consist of the following:

(a) Agreed consensual elements to be suggested to the General Assembly for consideration under its agenda item entitled "Oceans and the law of the sea", focused on issues that were discussed at the meeting (see resolution 54/33, para. 3 (h));

(b) A summary of discussions by the co-chairpersons of issues and ideas raised during the plenary sessions and discussion panel;

[a] *Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992*, vol. I, *Resolutions Adopted by the Conference* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigendum), resolution I, annex II.

(c) Issues that could benefit from attention in future work of the General Assembly on oceans and the law of the sea.

7. The co-chairpersons will present draft elements to the seventh meeting. Member States will have the opportunity formally to consider and propose amendments to the draft elements, if necessary, with the aim of reaching consensus as mentioned in paragraph 6 (a) above. Prior to that, there may be an opportunity for informal discussions by Member States on the draft elements.

8. An advance version of the co-chairpersons' summary of discussions, as mentioned in paragraph 6 (b) above, in English only, will be posted on the website of the Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea at http://www.un.org/Depts/los within three weeks of the end of the seventh meeting for delegations to comment.

9. The co-chairpersons will submit a final (advance and unedited) version of the report to the President of the General Assembly, incorporating such consensus as is reached on the elements to be suggested to the Assembly and reflecting the comments made on the other components mentioned in paragraphs 6 (b) and (c). In addition, that version of the report, in English only, will be posted on the website of the Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea at http://www.un.org/Depts/los.

Annex II

Annotated provisional agenda for the seventh meeting of the United Nations Open-ended Informal Consultative Process on Oceans and the Law of the Sea

Monday, 12 June 2006 **10 a.m.-1 p.m.**[a]

First plenary session

Item 1. Opening of the seventh meeting

Item 2. Adoption of the agenda

1. The seventh meeting is invited to consider and, as appropriate, to adopt the agenda for the seventh meeting. The schedule of agenda items is indicative: agenda items may be advanced, depending on the progress made in the discussions.

Item 3. General exchange of views on areas of concern and actions needed, including on issues discussed at previous meetings

2. Item 3 has been divided and is scheduled to be continued at the third plenary session. Issues discussed at previous meetings will be taken up at that time, along with any further exchanges on the area of focus and exchanges on issues other than those relating to the area of focus.

3. In this connection, it is suggested that delegations limit their interventions to the area of focus for the seventh meeting, "Ecosystem approaches and oceans", as recommended by the General Assembly in its resolution 60/30. Owing to time constraints and the potential number of speakers, delegations are kindly requested to limit their interventions to no more than five minutes.

Monday, 12 June 2006 **3-6 p.m.**[a]

Discussion panel
Ecosystem approaches and oceans

4. Based on the areas of concentration for the discussion panel set forth in annex III, it is proposed that the discussion panel segments be organized as set out below. In each segment, it is proposed to commence with panel presentations followed by discussions among delegations and panellists.

Segment 1
Demystifying the concept and understanding its implications

(a) Panel presentations

(b) Discussion

[a] All meetings will commence at 10 a.m. and 3 p.m.

Tuesday, 13 June 2006 **10 a.m.-1 p.m.**[a]

Discussion panel (*continued*)

Segment 2
Moving to implementation: implications for enabling elements

(a) Panel presentations

(b) Discussion

3-6 p.m.[a]

Segment 3
Lessons learned from implementation of ecosystem approaches at the national level in developed States

(a) Panel presentations

(b) Discussion

Wednesday, 14 June 2006 **10 a.m.-1 p.m.**[a]

Discussion panel (*continued*)

Segment 3
Lessons learned from implementation of ecosystem approaches at the national level in developing States

(a) Panel presentations

(b) Discussion

3-6 p.m.[a]

Discussion panel (*continued*)

Segment 4
International cooperation to implement ecosystem approaches at the regional and global levels

(a) Panel presentations

(b) Discussion

Second plenary session

Item 4. Cooperation and coordination, especially as it relates to ecosystem approaches and oceans

5. The Coordinator of the Oceans and Coastal Areas Network (UN-Oceans), the inter-agency mechanism for cooperation and coordination, will be invited to provide information on its activities, especially as they relate to ecosystem approaches and oceans.

6. There will also be an update by representatives from the United Nations Environment Programme and the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the lead agencies, regarding the regular Process for global reporting and assessment of the state of the marine environment, including socio-economic aspects.

7. Relevant intergovernmental organizations will be invited to address possible responses to the issues raised in the discussion panel in the context of cooperation and coordination and from the point of view of their mandates and available practical tools. Relevant non-governmental organizations will also be invited to present their joint views on how civil society could be involved in tackling some of the issues raised in the panel.

8. States, intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations may wish to comment on agenda item 4, and identify events or meetings where issues raised by the discussion panel could be further discussed or where future work could be advanced.

Thursday, 15 June 2006 **10 a.m.-1 p.m.**[a]

Second plenary session

Item 4. Cooperation and coordination, especially as it relates to ecosystem approaches and oceans (continued)

Item 3. General exchange of views on areas of concern and actions needed, including on issues discussed at previous meetings (continued)

9. General Assembly resolution 54/33 provides that, consistent with the legal framework provided by the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea and the goals of chapter 17 of Agenda 21, the Consultative Process is to facilitate the annual review by the General Assembly, in an effective and constructive manner, of developments in ocean affairs by considering the report of the Secretary-General on oceans and the law of the sea (A/61/63) and by suggesting particular issues to be considered by it, with an emphasis on identifying areas where coordination and cooperation at the intergovernmental and inter-agency levels should be enhanced.

10. During the consideration of item 3, an opportunity will be provided for interventions relating to the panel discussions, as well as for interventions on issues other than those relating to the area of focus. Furthermore, the relevant intergovernmental organizations, funds or programmes of the United Nations will also be provided with an opportunity to present an update of relevant developments in relation to the areas of focus discussed at previous meetings.

3-6 p.m.[a]

Third plenary session

Item 3. General exchange of views on areas of concern and actions needed, including on issues discussed at previous meetings (continued)

Item 5. Issues that could benefit from attention in future work of the General Assembly on oceans and the law of the sea

11. The meeting will consider a composite streamlined list of issues that could benefit from attention in the future work of the General Assembly, prepared by the co-chairpersons on the basis of part C of the reports on the work of the Consultative Process at its fourth, fifth and sixth meetings (A/58/95, A/59/122 and A/60/99, respectively).

Item 6. Consideration of elements to be suggested to the General Assembly

12. The meeting will be invited to agree by consensus upon a draft text of elements[b] to be suggested to the General Assembly for consideration under its agenda item entitled "Oceans and the law of the sea" (see format in annex I).

Friday, 16 June 2006 **10 a.m.-1 p.m.**[a]

Fourth plenary session

Item 6. Consideration of elements to be suggested to the General Assembly (continued)

3-6 p.m.[a]

Fifth plenary session

Item 6. Consideration of elements to be suggested to the General Assembly (continued)

[a] It is planned to circulate the draft elements to delegations in instalments for their consideration and for possible informal discussions in advance of agenda item 6.

Annex III

Proposed areas of concentration for the discussion panel on the topic "Ecosystem approaches and oceans"

1. The report of the Secretary-General on oceans and the law of the sea, chapter X, entitled "Ecosystem approaches and oceans" (A/61/63, paras. 106 to 199), provides background information for the discussion panel. In addition, other relevant reports of the Secretary-General are available on the website of the Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea (http://www.un.org/Depts/los). The following issues, addressed in chapter X, are not intended to be exhaustive but could provide a basis for an informed dialogue during the discussion panel:

(a) How the ecosystem approach has been defined; why ecosystem approaches are needed; and the goal of the ecosystem approach (see A/61/63, paras. 106-119);

(b) The legal and policy framework at the global level: legally binding instruments, non-binding instruments and arrangements (ibid., paras. 120-134);

(c) The development of an ecosystem approach (ibid., paras. 135-163);

(d) How ecosystem approaches have been implemented at the regional and national levels (ibid., paras. 164-193);

(e) Capacity-building activities (ibid., paras. 194-199).

2. In its consideration of the topic "Ecosystem approaches and oceans", it is proposed that the panel concentrate its discussions on the following two areas:*

(a) *General issues relating to ecosystem approaches*

(i) Conceptual aspects (e.g. how the ecosystem approach has been defined, implications of those definitions, the aim of ecosystem approaches, their development and implementation, and principles);

(ii) Scientific issues (focusing on application) and other enabling components.

(b) *Implementation of ecosystem approaches*

(i) Sharing of experiences and views to identify relevant policy and governance issues; and critical success factors, gaps and required capacity-building elements:

a. at the national level;

b. at the regional and global levels.

* As mentioned in the provisional agenda, item 4 on cooperation and coordination is also linked more specifically to the issues raised during the discussion panel.